

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 91

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 114

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to Mexican Independence Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 15, 1999.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 91, Villaraigosa. Mexican Independence Week.

This measure would call on all the people of California to join the people of Mexico and Californians of Mexican heritage in recognizing and celebrating the 16th of September as Mexican Independence Day with the cry of Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, "Long live independence! Death to bad government!" and would declare September 12 to 18, 1999, as Mexican Independence Week.

WHEREAS, For centuries the people of Mexico suffered under the oppressive political and economic rule of the government of Spain; and

WHEREAS, A movement toward Mexican independence was slowly taking root under the widespread exploitation and oppression at all levels of society by the government of Spain; and

WHEREAS, The nucleus of this movement was a group of intellectuals in the State of Queretaro. The group included Miguel Dominguez, a former corregidor (Mayor) of Queretaro, his wife, Dona Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez, remembered in Mexican history as *La Corregidora*, several distinguished officers, among them the adventurous Ignacio Allende, and Ignacio Aldama, and the parish priest of the City of Dolores, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla; and

WHEREAS, In the early morning hours of September 16, 1810, Father Hidalgo rang the church bells, assembled the townspeople, and rallied them to rise up in arms and rebel against the despotism of Spanish rule; and

WHEREAS, Speaking from the balcony of the parish of Nuestra Senora de Los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows), Father Hidalgo made a proclamation for independence with the famous words, now known as *El Grito de Dolores*: "Long live our Lady of Guadalupe! Long live independence! Death to bad government!"; and

WHEREAS, The war to free Mexico from the stronghold of Spain began with a rebel army comprised of civilian Indians, Mestizos, and Creoles armed with makeshift weapons including machetes, swords, knives, clubs, axes, stones, slings, sticks, and spears; and

WHEREAS, The revolutionary army assembled by Father Hidalgo's momentous call for independence eventually swelled to over 80,000 and managed to conquer several important cities; and

WHEREAS, Father Hidalgo's *El Grito de Dolores* (Cry of Dolores) became the battle cry of the Mexican War of Independence. The people of Mexico fought for 11 years before they finally won their freedom and independence from Spain on September 28, 1821; and

WHEREAS, Because of Father Hidalgo's patriotism, his championing of human rights, and his personal courage and tenacity, he is widely considered by the people of Mexico to be the father of their nation and the symbol of Mexican independence; and

WHEREAS, The famous Grito de Dolores that he shouted that night is remembered and repeated each year in elaborate ceremonial Mexican Independence Day celebrations north and south of the border; and

WHEREAS, Increasingly, Mexico and the United States, particularly the State of California, are now forming ever closer ties both culturally and economically that benefit both nations; and

WHEREAS, September 16 reminds us of the close ties, spiritual as well as economic, that bind the people of Mexico and the people of the United States, and especially California, the home of millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby calls on all the people of California to join the people of Mexico and Californians of Mexican heritage in recognizing and celebrating the 16th of September with the cry of Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla: "Long live independence! Death to bad government!"; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the week of September 12 to 18, 1999, is hereby declared Mexican Independence Week, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor and to the author for appropriate distribution.